

International conference on LCA: CILCA 2011 towards Rio+20

Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico, April 4 to 7, 2011

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It is again the time of the year to invite you to come to our next International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), referred to as CILCA for its initials in Spanish. On this occasion, CILCA 2011 will take place in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico, on April 4–7, 2011 and it is being hosted by PEMEX Petroquímica (Mexican Petroleum), the Center for Life Cycle Assessment and Sustainable Design (CADIS), as well as the Institute of Engineering of the National Autonomous University (II-UNAM), and supported by UNEP/SETAC Life Cycle Initiative and (<http://www.cilca2011.mx>).

This bi-annual event, which is held in various countries of Latin America, invites experts and interested audiences from across the globe. The first CILCA, held during 2005 in San José Costa Rica and organized by the Latin American Life Cycle Association (ALCALA), has set the benchmark for the local LCA community of the region. It followed CILCA 2007, successfully hosted by Brazilian Life Cycle Association

(ABCV) in São Paulo, Brazil, and in 2009, CILCA was held in Chile under the skillful organization of the Chilean Research Center of Mining and Metallurgy (CIMM).

The aim of CILCA 2011 is to focus on the application of LCA in industry and its developments in the Latin American region through the global setting of upcoming Rio+20. The conference offers a diverse and promising program as well as workshop sessions, and participants from across the globe will be welcomed at the inaugural session to be held on April 4. Four round tables have been scheduled to take place and these include:

- Global process towards LCA databases,
- Ibero-American LCA network,
- Water footprinting, and
- Rio+20 through an LCA perspective.

Conference sessions have been grouped under two main categories, namely “LCA Industrial applications” and “LCA Management trends”, which cover topics from petrochemical energy, mining, goods, and services, up to eco-labels, education, and capability development, amongst others. It is expected that keynote speakers address and design a strategy for enhanced development in industry and continued cooperation between Latin America and other regions of the world, with the ultimate goal of bringing together over 400 participants from the industry, non-government organizations, academia, and government.

Three daily workshops are programmed, following the closing ceremony, addressing the following topics: ISO 26000 and Social LCA, Life Cycle Impact Assessment, and Life Cycle Costing. Other specific meetings such as those to work on the regional organization and the next CILCA in Argentina are also planned.

Languages at the conference will be in both Spanish and English, and provision has been made for oral presentations

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to be translated where applicable. All written documentation will be in English.

The call for papers has been issued, and the deadline for extended abstract submission and poster presentation has been set on January 15, 2011. Early registration is open through February 28, 2011, and it is important for all authors to keep in mind that they must be duly registered by this date. Please note that we have an early bird registration fee available, and this ranges from US\$180.00 for students up to US\$380.00 for OECD member country participants. A special discount is also applicable to low- and middle-income countries as per WB categories. All late registrations received by March 20 and beyond will have an additional cost attached.

It is important to note that scholarships will be granted to students provided that they submit letters of motivation together with their extended abstract.

Following the tradition already established by previous CILCA events through interesting and beautiful venues combined with ground breaking activities to

further develop LC thinking, the CILCA 2011 venue (<http://www.convencionescoatza.com.mx>) is set in the town of Coatzacoalcos, which is a major port city on the Coatzacoalcos River in the southern part of the Mexican state of Veracruz. In the local language of “Nahuatl,” this means “the place where the snake hides”, and according to legend, this is the place where the god Quetzalcoatl made his final journey to the sea around the year 999. For more information please visit <http://www.coatzacoalcos.gob.mx> (only in Spanish).

We look forward to your participation at this important CILCA 2011 event to be held in April in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, and be part of the synergy to embed a culture of life cycle thinking at Rio+20.

For further information and to register visit the conference website at <http://www.cilca2011.mx> or alternatively contact CADIS, Tel/Fax: +52 (55) 26029694, contact@cilca2011.mx.

We hope to see you at CILCA 2011 on the path towards Rio+20 with life cycle thinking.